

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

- 1 1. (Currently Amended) An operator used in connection with a door having a
2 counterbalance system including an axle, comprising, a motor assembly, a gear
3 assembly operatively interconnected with said motor assembly such that said motor
4 assembly causes rotation thereof, a bore in said gear assembly adapted to receive the
5 axle which is rotatable with said gear assembly and a gear segment of said gear
6 assembly that is removable to radially open said gear assembly and allow insertion
7 of the axle into said bore, wherein said motor assembly includes a rotatable drive
8 gear engageable with a gear surface formed on said gear assembly, wherein said gear
9 assembly includes an outer rim, said gear surface being formed interiorly of said rim
10 and said drive gear engaging said gear surface interiorly of said rim.
- 1 2. (Canceled).
- 1 3. (Canceled).
- 1 4. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim [[3]] 1, wherein said rim extends axially
2 inward to an extent substantially the same as or greater than ~~the~~ an axial extension
3 of said drive gear, whereby said drive gear is housed within said gear assembly.
- 1 5. (Original) The operator of claim 1, wherein said gear segment is slidingly received
2 within said gear assembly, and is removable in a direction parallel to the axle.
- 1 6. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 5, wherein said gear assembly includes
2 a hub defining said bore, a rim spaced radially from said hub, and a gear surface
3 formed on said rim and engageable with a drive gear associated with said motor and

4 rotatable therewith, wherein said gear segment includes a ~~removable~~ rim portion, a
5 gear portion formed on said rim portion, and a ~~removable~~ hub portion, wherein said
6 rim portion and said hub portion are removable with said gear segment .

1 7. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 6, wherein said hub is divided into a first
2 half and a second half, said first half ~~being~~ forming said removable hub portion and
3 interconnected with said ~~removable portion of~~ said rim portion by a ~~removable~~ wall
4 portion, whereby said gear segment may be removed in a unitary fashion.

1 8. (Original) The operator of claim 7, wherein said gear segment is selectively attached
2 to said gear assembly by a fastener.

1 9. (Original) The operator of claim 8, wherein said gear segment includes a laterally
2 extending tab that overlaps a portion of said gear assembly, wherein said gear
3 segment is attached at said tab.

1 10. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 9, wherein said gear segment includes
2 a backing plate extending radially between said ~~removable~~ rim portion and said first
3 hub half and spaced axially outward of said rim, wherein said tab extends laterally
4 from said backing plate.

1 11. (Original) The operator of claim 10, wherein a pair of tabs extend from said backing
2 plate and wherein a pair of fasteners extends through said tabs into said gear
3 assembly to attach said gear segment thereto.

1 12. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 11, further comprising means for
2 clamping said first and second ~~hub~~ halves of said hub together.

1 13. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 12, wherein said means for clamping
2 said ~~hub~~ halves of said hub together includes a lip carried on at least one of said ~~hub~~
3 halves of said hub and a receiver formed on the other of said ~~hub~~ halves of said hub

4 defining a slot extending in the axial direction for receipt of said lip.

1 14. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 13, wherein said lip has an outwardly
2 facing surface that slopes inwardly as ~~[[it]]~~ said lip extends outwardly from said one
3 of said ~~hub~~ halves of said hub in the axial direction, and wherein said receiver has
4 an inwardly facing surface having substantially the same slope as said outwardly
5 facing surface on said lip, wherein said surfaces are engageable upon insertion of
6 said lip in said receiver.

1 15. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 12, wherein said means for clamping
2 said ~~hub~~ halves of said hub together includes a pair of lips extending axially inward
3 from said first ~~hub~~ half of said hub and a pair of receivers supported on said second
4 ~~hub~~ half of said hub located axially inward of a radially extending end wall on said
5 gear assembly, said receivers defining axially extending slots adapted to receive said
6 pair of lips on said first ~~hub~~ half of said hub.

1 16. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 15, wherein said means for clamping
2 further comprises a second pair of lips extending axially outward from said second
3 ~~hub~~ half of said hub and a pair of receivers supported on said first ~~hub~~ half of said
4 hub and located axially outward of said end wall, said receivers defining slots
5 adapted to receive said second pair of lips on said second ~~hub~~ half of said hub upon
6 insertion of said gear segment.

1 17. (Original) The operator of claim 16, wherein said lips have outwardly facing surfaces
2 that are tapered inwardly as the lips extend axially outward from said end wall, and
3 said receivers have inwardly facing surfaces that taper inwardly as they extend
4 axially outward from said end wall, said inward facing surfaces of said receivers and
5 said outward facing surfaces of said lips being engageable upon insertion of said gear
6 assembly.

1 18. (Currently Amended) The operator of claim 17 further comprising, a locking collar

2 slidingly received over at least one of said first and second ~~hub~~ halves of said hub
3 and fastenable to said end wall.

1 19. (Original) The operator of claim 18, wherein said end wall carries an axially outward
2 extending projection and wherein said locking collar includes a radially extending
3 portion adapted to fit over said projection upon sliding said clamping ring over said
4 hub.

1 20. (Original) An operator for use in connection with a door system having an axle
2 comprising, an operator framework supporting an operator motor, said operator
3 framework defining a clearance adapted to insertably receive the axle therein, a gear
4 assembly defining a bore in which the axle is received and including a removable
5 gear segment adapted to selectively medially open said bore to receive the axle,
6 wherein said motor is interconnected with said gear assembly to cause rotation
7 thereof.

1 21. (Original) The operator of claim 20, wherein said operator framework includes a
2 channel that opens toward the axle defining said clearance.

1 22. (Original) The operator of claim 21, wherein said channel has a generally U-shaped
2 section.

1 23. (Original) The operator of claim 20 further comprising, a drive train, wherein said
2 drive train interconnects said motor to said gear assembly.

1 24. (Original) The operator of claim 20, wherein said operator motor is pivotally
2 mounted.

1 25. (Currently Amended) An operator for use in connection with a door system having

2 an axle comprising, a motor assembly including a motor, said motor having a drive
3 gear extending therefrom, means for interconnecting said motor assembly to the axle,
4 wherein a portion of said means for interconnecting the motor assembly is removable
5 to allow radial insertion of the axle during installation, and means for attaching said
6 portion to said means for interconnecting, wherein said drive gear engages said
7 means for interconnecting said motor assembly to the axle on an interior surface of
8 said means for interconnecting said motor assembly.

1 26. (Original) The operator of claim 25, wherein said motor assembly is pivotable about
2 an axis running parallel to the axle between a generally horizontal unlocked position
3 and generally vertical locked position, wherein said motor assembly includes a spring
4 engageable with said motor and adapted to counterbalance the weight of said motor
5 in said unlocked position.

1 27. (Original) An operator used in connection with a counterbalance system having an
2 axle comprising, a motor, a worm wheel operatively interconnected with said motor,
3 said worm wheel lying along an axis parallel to the axle, wherein said motor is
4 pivotable about said axis between a generally horizontal unlocked position and
5 generally vertical locked position, and a spring having an end engageable with said
6 motor for applying a torsional force thereto.

1 28. (Original) The operator of claim 27, wherein said spring is a coil spring located
2 coaxially with said worm wheel and wherein said end of said spring engages said
3 worm wheel for application of said torsional force to said motor.

1 29. (Original) The operator of claim 27, wherein said spring is adapted to counterbalance
2 the weight of said motor in said unlocked position and wherein said spring urges said
3 motor toward said unlocked position.